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[The Famous HISTORY of the  
Valiant LONDON Prentice



Printed and Sold in Fleet Street, London.



The History of  
*The Valiant London Prentice*



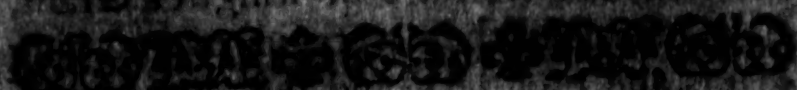
CHAP. I.

*An Account of his Birth, Education, and  
early Valour.*

**I**N times past there was born in the famous county of Chester, a youth of very excellent beauty, promising a great many fine things in his infancy; to promote which, the parents, being wealthy, spared no pains to educate him in the best manner the country afforded; nor did he, as he grew in years, fail in any part of their expectations. He took much delight in learning; but nothing so much inflamed his mind as the desire of exercising himself in feats of arms; and he was the more inclined to it by reading of

the famous adventure of knight's errant,  
how successful they were in overcoming  
giants and monsters, and rescuing beauti-  
ful ladies from death or misery. And as  
these heroic thoughts encreased, so he  
found his strength abound; nature not  
sparing to give him strength according to  
his limbs. So that in his very childish  
encounters, those who far surpassed him  
in years, were not able to resist his force;  
nor came they near him in wrestling,  
jumping, running, casting the bar, stone,  
or dart, which made his parents not a  
little proud of such a blessing, who they  
had named Aurelius, as one that promised  
great things.

CHAP. I.



## CHAP. II.

*Of his Adventures and Enterpises, by which  
he won the fair Virgins Hearts.*

**W**HEN Amador was at the age of fourteen, he went to a wake, to recreate himself with the country youths; where he behaved so well as to gain vast praise, and took so well with the virgins that some of them began to feel a fever in their minds; which Cupid, who at such meetings is seldom backward in promoting the business of love, failed not to encrease. But he, as yet not capable of feeling the force of passion, regarded not their amorous glances, nor understood the silent language of inflamed eyes, though it overtook him those enemies who were ever ready to attack him, as a most dangerous enemy. He gathered reasons for his own defence, and praises their girls before he could be taken in.

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CH A P. III.

*Of Lucinda's falling in Love with him  
and of her Lovers conspiracy to kill him.*

**O**UR youth encreasing in strength and beauty with his years, and continuing, as occasion offered, to appear in public, among those admirable virgins, who in a manner doated upon him, and wished to be mistrefs of his affections, Lucinda, the lovely daughter of a wealthy shepherd, was the chief, who sought by many means to oblige him, and let him understand her passion; but modesty sealing her lips, he could not interpret her dumb signs, but continued his merri-ment, having no regard to her passion; which made her sigh and grow melanc-holy, refusing the addresses of all that a-dored her.

So sudden an alteration made them restless till they knew the cause; which they soon did, by her companions, unto whom she had told her passion; as also

by a letter she had written, in order to send to him by a trusty friend, but had accidentally dropped it, which contained these words:

Aurelius,

SEEING you do] not understand the language of a love-sick virgin's eyes, pardon the liberty I take, to let you know, Lucinda doats upon you, and begs you would requite her love with your love, who for your sake renounces the rest of mankind.— Then have compassion, or miserable must remain,

LUCINDA.

This giving the amorists full knowledge upon whose account they found such cold entertainment from their beloved mistress, whom they all fearing to lose, spent their study how to remove that obstacle which stood between them and their very much desired happiness. Some were of opinion, that nothing but the death of Aurelius could effect it; but others, of a milder disposition, declared, That it would not only be too much a cruelty, but bring their own lives into

question: Therefore, ~~clandestinely~~  
were generally more taken with the beau-  
ty of the body than of the soul, they  
judged fit to deform him by poison; but  
where to get it they knew not, and so  
were resolved to disgrace his face with  
wounds, and put an end to the passion of  
their dear Lucinda, which they knew no  
other way to extinguish.



CHAP



C H A P. IV.

*How they attempted to destroy Aurelius;  
but were overcome, and left naked in  
the Wood.*

**T**HE plot being thus laid against our valiant youth, many ways were then sought for an opportunity to put it into practice; till at last they understood he was gone to pay a visit to a friend of his, who lived about five miles from his father's house, and he must pass by a wood. This lucky opportunity, as they imagined it, made them all leap for joy; being four in number, they armed themselves with mischievous weapons, and in disguise placed themselves in ambush under some trees, in the way he must pass, each swearing to the other to keep the thing secret; tho' they kept not their oaths, as you shall hear.

Long they had not staid, but, as they wished, our valiant youth, never dreaming of such treachery, came on; and hearing the bushes rustle, he made a halt, to

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see what was the cause ; when out leapt  
the lovers, and encompassing of him, af-  
ter they had used many terrible words,  
and reviled him, they made into a grapple  
with him ; who, ignorant of their intent,  
and scorning to stoop to fear, took the two  
foremost, one in each hand, and by main  
force beat their heads together, that they  
rung like a barber's bason ; so that being  
stunned by such lusty knocks, after stag-  
gering some paces, down they fell ; and



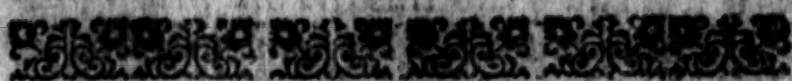
having by this time wrested a wood wea-  
pon from one of them, he set upon the  
other two with such fury, giving them  
several wounds, that finding the blood to  
run ab ut their ears, they fell on their  
knees, and cried for mercy ; and so did  
the other two, when they recovered from

penitence: Yet they could not obtain their wish, till he had thrashed them into a confession of the whole matter, and so became sensible of the love Lucinda bore him; and that she might come to the knowledge of what had happened on this occasion, and that their villainy might be rewarded by disgrace, he made them strip, and with such tackling as their garments afforded, he bound them to four trees stark-naked; where those hot-brained lovers took a cooling all the morning, which discovered the whole intrigue. This adventure became for some time the mirth of the country; but most of all it pleased the fair Lucinda, whose favour they lost by the same.



CHAP





## CHAP. V.

*Of his being put Prentice to a Merchant,  
and the Leave he took of Lucinda.*

**T**HE father of Aurelius having received an exact account of what happened, and fearing these lovers might study some revenge to repair all this disgrace, as likewise to prevent any amours which might happen between him and Lucinda, to whom he was not willing he should be married, took opportunity to discourse about putting him in a way that might render him capable of living creditably in the world; when finding him pliable, he told him, It was his pleasure he should go to London, and there go apprentice to some honourable calling, by which he might be a comfort to him; therefore he bid him chuse what profession he liked.

He had not long considered, before he replied, That seeing it was his pleasure, he consented, and for the desire he had of seeing strange countries, he could like

a merchant. To this the old man agreeing, he was soon after sent to London, and placed to a Turkey merchant upon London-bridge. Upon his deparrure he directed these lines to Lucinda :

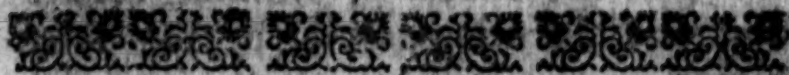
*P*ardon me, beautiful maid, if love as yet has made no conquest over me. — That you deserve what love can bestow, I must confess ; but I, alas ! must go and wander through the world ere I can love ; Then be contented, and never weep for

AURELIUS

This flat denial made the fair Lucinda shed many a tear, and bewail her misfortune, in loving where she was not repaid ; but soon after a rich farmer's son offering his service to her, she having, with much struggling, overcome all her former affections, changed her passion, and sacrificed her virginity to the pleasure of this new lover ; were revelling in excess of joy, we will leave them, and follow Aurelius.

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## C H A P. IV.

*How he gained the Love of his Master, and became enamoured of his Daughter.*

**O**UR youth, upon trial, proved so diligent and respectful, that it was not long ere he was bound according to the custom of the honourable city of London; and doubling his diligence, he won the love of the whole family; not refusing any thing which might please or be for his master's interest. And what time he had to spare, he spent in manly exercises, recreating himself in the fencing-school, and in martial exploits, gaining every where the name of a bold and hardy youth, and one who promised extraordinary things.

In this happy state he lived near three years, when Fortune, who is as unconstant as the wind, conspired to give him some disturbance; for fair Dorinda, his master's daughter, a handsome virgin, about sixteen years of age, returning from

school, where she had been brought up at board, her modesty, winning behaviour, and charming graces, by his often gazing on her, by degrees conceived such a passion for that excellent creature; that he was no longer master of his heart, which his eyes had given away.

A while he smothered the flame, but it broke out the fiercer; and then he knew experimentally what Lucinda had suffered. Often he attempted to discover his passion, and as often, fearing to offend, stay'd the words at his tongue's end; and all he could do, was to sigh, and stand confounded in her presence, while the innocent lady would frequently ask the reason; but had no other answer, but what his eyes delivered in burning glances.—Thus he continued for a month or more, at the end of which he resolved to make his passion known; and soon found an opportunity to drop a letter in the way of lovely Dorinda, containing these words:

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Beauteous Dorinda;

**A**FTER many sighs and eager looks, I have presumed to let you know, if this comes into your fair hand, that I love you dearer than my own life; and to be requited by your love, lo! there is nothing so bazardous but I will undertake. The inequality, I must confess is great; yet love is a power obedient to no law but his own.—Pity me, then as a lover; who loves you above all earthly things; and look not on me as your father's servant, but as your slave, by whose smiles I must live, and without which my life must be most miserable.

AURELIUS.

This did not a little surprise the-beauteous maid, who considered, that altho' he was then a servant, she might for all that have cause to love him; yet, as it might be displeasing to her parents, if she should countenance his affections: therefore, preferring her duty and obedience to her fancy, or the passion of Aurelius, the next time she met him, her words were, That she could not but wonder



how he should presume to make love to her, who was his own master's daughter, before half his time was expired; and desired him not to make mention of it any more by letter or words, lest her father was made acquainted with it to his prejudice.—And so with a scornful frown she left him, as one struck in amaze with grief.



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*How he got leave to go to Turkey, and what ensued.*

**A**URELIUS being thus repulsed in his first love, found himself altogether restless; and that as often he beheld his beautiful mistress, his flames were encreased, and his torture more and more augmented; and though he tried many ways to give rest to his labouring mind, yet he found them in vain, and so concluded, that unless he was separated from the beautiful object, he must always be miserable; and perceiving that his passion carried him every day more and more forward towards ruin, he went to his master to let him go into Turkey in the next boat, which request was granted without much difficulty. And in order to his departure, he had leave to take with him what he pleased from his scornful mistress, who by this time had began to relent that she had so unkindly repulsed his addresses: but, being

how he should presume to make love to her, who was his own master's daughter, before half his time was expired; and desired him not to make mention of it any more by letter or words, lest her father was made acquainted with it to his prejudice.—And so with a scornful frown she left him, as one struck in amaze with grief.



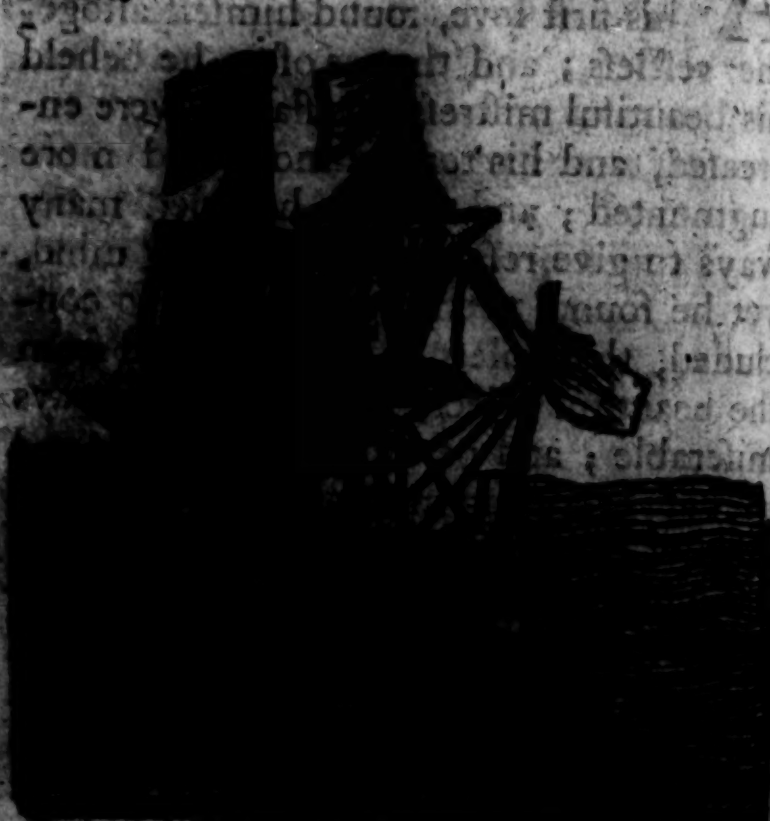
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...and young, and considering  
that to those advantages her indulgent  
father would add a large portion, her  
thought of a higher advancement hushed  
up that care, and so they parted, valiant  
Aurelius to the ship, and the Lady to her  
chamber, where we must leave her, who  
shortly after was married to a rich mer-  
chant.



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CHAP. VIII.

*Of his arrival at Turkey; and his Reception; and how he overthrew the Turkish Champion, and killed a Turkish Prince.*

**N**OW the gallant Aurelius having passed the dangers of the sea, awhile contending with the storms of wind and love, landed at Constantinople; where he was received with much respect by the English merchants and factors residing there; and behaved himself so well in the management of affairs, that he gained a general esteem; and in all this he forgot not to exercise his valour, as often as occasion offered; and being by this time grown to his full strength, he found no one able to encounter him, though too modest to boast of his abilities.

Now it happend, on the marriage of one of the Turk's daughters, great sports were prepared, and all the Knights of the court summoned to exercise at tilts and tournaments, in honour of the ladies and their country.

his news pleased Aurelius so much, that he resolved to make one among them and shew his prowess for the honour of the English nation against the proud Infidels. And thereupon he provided armour, with a horse, sword, and strong lance, bearing in his shield a golden phoenix, to signify he was a subject to the virgin-queen; and under it Neptune, bridling the ocean, shewing that the sovereignty of the sea depended on her will; as for his armour, it was white, signifying innocency.

Thus bravely accoutred, he hasted to the lists, to wait the trumpet's sound; where all the Nobles and Ladies were seated in their degrees, clad in gold and gems. — When on a sudden three Turks, well mounted, and richly armed, advanced with their mooned shields, and with a loud voice bid defiance, as the bridegrooms champions, to all the Knights in Christendom, which made Aurelius impatient to let them know what English valour was; but perceiving the champions of other nations preparing for the encounter, he forbore, till he might see their fortune; so that his honour might

be the greater by overcoming the more  
 quarters than he will. For the Turk  
 being of a monstrous size, and well expe-  
 rienced in such feats of arms, at the first  
 encounter cast them from their saddles,  
 and so served three others; which made  
 Aurelius think it wastime for him to ad-  
 vance; and setting spurs to his horse, he  
 met the foremost with a full stroke on the  
 breast, that tumbled him, with his heels  
 upwards, quite over the crupper, and  
 passing on, struck the second on his crest  
 with such force as broke it, and the lance  
 entering his brain, he fell dead to the  
 ground, which the third perceiving, on  
 he came with his long sword, and with  
 one blow cut through Aurelius's shield;  
 but he charged furiously on the Infidel,  
 made him give ground, and after several  
 sad wounds, obliged him to kiss the earth  
 and beg his life.

To revenge this disgrace of their cham-  
 pions, the Turkish Prince, by leave of his  
 father-in-law, entered the lists, and with  
 great rage, defied the bold Aurelius;  
 swearing by Mahomet, he would chastise  
 the great affront, and with reproachful  
 expressions bid him come on. Upon

which they did force to their horses, and  
 met with such fury, that their horses  
 broke, and shivered in thair; whereon  
 the Turkish Prince drew his sword; but  
 Anselins made at him with the truncheon  
 of his spear, wherewith he gave him such  
 a weigty blow on the top of his helmet,  
 as broke his neck, so down he fell dead.  
 After which none durst engage the vali-  
 ant English champion.

*THE HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF*

*OF HIS DESTROYING TWO LIONS PREPARED TO DE-*  
**CHAP. IX.**

*OF HIS DESTROYING TWO LIONS PREPARED TO DE-*  
*stroy him, and of his marrying the King's*  
*Daughter in Marriage.*

**NOW** the Turk, upon notice that  
 the bold Prince Groudam, his son-in-  
 law, was dead, whom he imagined to be  
 only slayed, vowed that Anselins, who  
 he called an English boy, should suffer  
 the most cruel death that ever any man  
 did; and therefore he sent a very strong  
 guard to seize him, and carry him to  
 prison, till he had consulted what man-  
 ner of cruel death to put him to; and in

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the end, it was concluded that he should be cast alive to two fierce lions, who, to make them the greedier, were kept fasting several days.

The appointed day for his death being come, and the King, his Nobles, and the Ladies being seated, to behold the execution, the brave Aurelius was brought forth in a cambric shirt, and drawers of white sattin, embroidered with gold, a crimson cap on his head; but he had scarce time to bow respectfully to the Ladies, who praised his manly beauty, and began to pity his misfortunes, ere the lions were let loose; who at the sight of their prey began to roar most horribly, inasmuch that the spectators stumbled.

Aurelius, whom death daunted not, now laying aside all fear, at that noise thus fiercely to him, with open mouth, thrust his hands down their throats, and before they had time to get from his strong arms, he tore out both their hearts, and so laid them dead at his feet; demanding of the King, what other dangerous enterprises he had to put him to, and he would gladly do them, for the



...of his Country and his dear coun-

When immediately the Emperor descended from his lofty throne, tenderly embraced him, pardoned him, and said, He believed him to be some angel. But upon his assurance that he was no more than man, the Emperor offered him his beautiful daughter Theodora, with great riches, who at that time became a Christian; and after spending some time in Italy, they both returned into England, where they were received with great joy, and lived many happy years together, and happy.

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